



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

mm

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/097,888	06/15/98	WRIGHT	M 20308-36

CLIFFORD A POFF
436 SEVENTH AVENUE
SUITE 2230 KOPPERS BUILDING
PITTSBURGH PA 15219

LM01/0209

EXAMINER

HUANG, S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2736	9

DATE MAILED: 02/09/99

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/097,888	Applicant(s) Wright et al.
	Examiner Sihong Huang	Group Art Unit 2736

Responsive to communication(s) filed on Aug 14, 1998

This action is **FINAL**.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) 7 is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 1, 2, and 4-6 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) 3 is/are objected to.

Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

Art Unit: 2736

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Preliminary Amendment

1. This Office Action is a supplemental action to the prior Office action mailed on 12/23/98 due to mis-matching of the preliminary amendment filed 08/14/98. As directed by the preliminary amendment, claims 1 and 3 were amended, and new claim 7 was added. Thus, claims 1-7 are presently pending in this patent application with claims 1 and 7 being the independent claims.

Oath/Declaration

2. The oath or declaration is defective. A new oath or declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67(a) identifying this application by application number and filing date is required. See MPEP §§ 602.01 and 602.02.

The oath or declaration is defective because:

It does not state that the person making the oath or declaration in a continuation-in-part application filed under the conditions specified in 35 U.S.C. 120 which discloses and claims subject matter in addition to that disclosed in the prior copending application, acknowledges the duty to disclose to the Office all information known to the person to be material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

Specification

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Art Unit: 2736

On page 1, under the title of "Cross Reference To Related Application", the information regarding application No. 08/839,300 should be updated to include the patent No. 5,767,774.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1, 2, 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dwyer (U.S. Pat. #3,823,285).

Regarding claims 1 and 2, Dwyer discloses a patient monitoring system (Fig. 7) including the combination of: a plurality of pneumatic pressure generators (15a and 15b) with at least one armable pneumatic generator (when the pneumatic pressure generator 15a or 15b of Dwyer is held and squeezed by the patient, the pneumatic actuated switch 12 is actuated which activates a monitoring system, the pneumatic pressure generator 15a or 15b of Dwyer can be considered armable); conduit (14, 64; see Fig. 7 for connection); a pneumatic actuated switch (12).

Regarding claim 4, Dwyer discloses a force-actuated pressure generator (15a, 15b).

Art Unit: 2736

Regarding claim 5, Dwyer in Figs. 1-6 clearly discloses the claimed pneumatically actuated switch.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dwyer (U.S. Pat. #3,823,285) in view of Roberts et al. (U.S. Pat. #5,736,702).

Regarding claim 6, Dwyer differs from the claimed invention in that Dwyer does not specifically disclose that the pneumatically actuated switch includes a housing having the capability of providing a plurality of angular orientations for air passage from the pressure generators. However, as evidenced by Roberts, providing such housing is well known in the art (Figs. 1 and 2) and an obvious modification to the switch housing of Dwyer for a flexible pneumatically actuated switch due to the multiple angular orientations housing for connection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Art Unit: 2736

8. Claim 3 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

9. Claim 7 is allowable over the prior art of record because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a patient monitoring system comprising: a plurality of pneumatic pressure generators, at least one of said pneumatic pressure generators being actuatable in response to movement of a patient beyond a predetermined distance from said at least one generator; conduit; and a pneumatic actuated switch acted upon by pneumatic pulses delivered by the conduit from any of said pneumatic generators.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Prior art references Andersen (U.S. Pat. #4,577,185), Henderson et al (U.S. Pat. #4,583,084), Hilton (U.S. Pat. #4,762,968), and Demirel et al (U.S. Pat. #5,066,943) are cited to show a person monitoring system comprising an electronic generator activated in response to movement of the person beyond a predetermined distance from the generator.

Prior art reference Rendler (U.S. Pat. #3,104,293) is cited to show a pneumatic actuated switch being activated by a pneumatic pressure generator.

Art Unit: 2736

Prior art reference Feldl (U.S. Pat. #4,020,482) is cited to show a patient monitor comprising a pressure actuated electrical switch being activated by a pneumatic pressure generator which operates in an oppose fashion from the present claimed invention (i.e., when the generator generates pneumatic pluses, the switch is open; when the generator doesn't generate pneumatic pluses, the switch is closed/activated, see col. 2, lines 17-36).

11. Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 305-3988, (for informal or draft communications, please label

"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

12. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sihong Huang whose telephone number is (703) 305-3966.

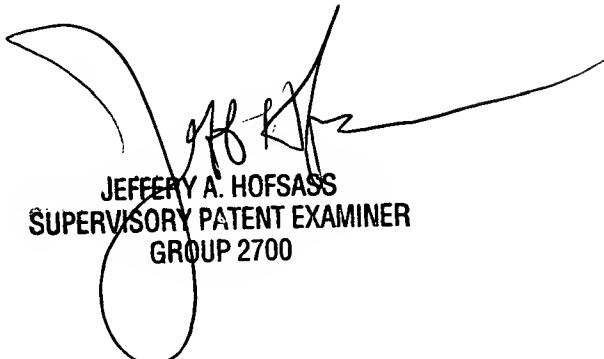
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffery Hofsass, can be reached on (703) 305-4717.

Art Unit: 2736

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Sihong Huang

January 22, 1999


JEFFERY A. HOFSS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 2700